

Message Text

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PAGE 01 REYKJA 00890 311512Z

64

ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 CIAE-00 PM-07 INR-10 L-03 NEA-10

NSAE-00 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 USIA-15 TRSE-00 MBFR-03

SAJ-01 SS-15 NSC-10 ACDA-19 OMB-01 RSR-01 /126 W

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R 311350Z JUL 73

FM AMEMBASSY REYKJAVIK

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3834

INFO COMICEDEFOR

CINCLANT

SECDEF

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY BONN

USMISSION NATO

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY OSLO

C O N F I D E N T I A L REYKJAVIK 0890

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MARR IC NATO

SUBJECT: IDF RETENTION ISSUE: MTG WITH FONMIN

REF: REYKJAVIK 824

1. IN CONVERSATION WITH FONMIN AGUSTSSON JULY 30, I ASKED WHETHER THE ISSUE OF GO'S MEMBERSHIP ON ARTICLE ;11 NEGOTIATING TEAM HAD BEEN RESOLVED (REFTEL PARA 7). FONMIN SAID THAT HE IS STILL TRYING TO PREVENT COMMUNIST MINISTER MAGNUS KJARTANSSON FROM BEING ON THE TEAM. HE SAID THAT IF HE SUCCEEDS HE WILL AS A MINIMUM HAVE TO AGREE TO THE FORMATION OF AN ADVISORY CMTE COMPOSED OF THE THREE PARTIES IN THE COALITION GOVT WHOSE ADVICE WOULD NOT NECESSARILY BE BINDING, BUT WHOSE ADVICE HE MAY HAVE TO SEEK AS A MATTER OF PROCEDURE. I REITERATED IT WAS VERY IMPORTANT HE BE ALLOWED FLEXIBILITY AND THAT IT WOULD BE HELPFUL IF HE COULD AVOID AS ADVISORY CMTE MEMBERS THOSE PERSONS WHO ARE
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PAGE 02 REYKJA 00890 311512Z

OUTSPOKEN CRITICS OF THE BASE. HE KNEW I WAS REFERRING TO

KJARTANSSON AND MAGNUS TORFI OLAFSSON. HE SAID THIS WOULD BE A DELICATE PROBLEM, BUT IT WAS WORTH A TRY. HE SAID HE SUPPOSED THAT ONE WAY OF ACCOMPLISHING THIS WOULD BE TO PRECLUDE MINISTERS OF THE GOVERNMENT FROM SERVING ON THE ADVISORY CMTE.

2. FONMIN ASKED WHO WOULD COMPOSE USG TEAM. HE SAID IT WOULD HELP HIS SITUATION IF HE COULD SAY THAT HIS MINISTRY'S COUNTERPART WILL BE HANDLING NEGOTIATIONS ON PART OF USG. I REMARKED THAT I WOULD CONVEY THIS THOUGHT TO WASHINGTON BUT,; IF HE FELT IT WOULD BE HELPFUL TO ACHIEVE A FAVORABLE RESOLUTION OF THE GOI NEGOTIATING TEAM PROBLEM, HE COULD ASSUME THIS WOULD BE THE CASE. I ASKED WHETHER HIS COMMENT WOULD PRECLUDE AN OUTSIDE NEGOTIATOR. HE REPLIED THAT IT WOULD SEEM TO BE ALL RIGHT PROVIDED HE COULD STILL SAY THAT NEGOTIATIONS WERE BEING HANDLED BY THE STATE DEPT. HE ASSUMED THAT ANY OUTSIDE NEGOTIATOR WOULD FOR THIS PURPOSE BE A CONSULTANT TO THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE.

3. AGUSTSSON LEAVES FOR VACATION AUGUST 1 FOR ABOUT THREE WEEKS. HE REQUESTED THAT WE GIVE GIZURARSSON (REFTEL PARA 4) A TOUR OF IDF FACILITIES DURING HIS ABSENCE. HE ALSO IS CONTEMPLATING SENDING GIZURARSSON TO WASH AND NORFOLK FOR STATE AND DEFENSE DEPT BRIEFINGS IN COMPANY WITH ICELAND'S AMB TO US HARALDUR KROYER.

4. DURING DISCUSSION FONMIN REMARKED HE MET WITH GEIR HALL-GRIMSSON (PRO-US INDEPENDENCE PARTY LEADER) LAST WEEK TO ADVISE HIM ABOUT TIMING OF OFFICIAL NEGOTIATIONS. HE SUGGESTED WE CONTINUE MAINTAIN ACTIVE BUT QUIET CONTACT WITH HALLGRIMSSON BECAUSE WE WILL NEED HIS HELP WHEN ALTHING REOPENS. HE ALSO SUGGESTED WE NOT OVERLOOK JONAS HARALZ (NATIONAL BANK GENERAL MANAGER WHO IS BEING SPOKEN OF AS CONTENDER TO HALLGRIMSSON AS PRIME MINISTER IN AN INDEPENDENCE PARTY-DOMINATED CABINET SHOULD INDEPENDENCE PARTY REGAIN GOVT). THIS EMBASSY ALREADY HAS AN EXCELLENT RELATIONSHIP WITH HARALZ.

5. COMMENT: AGUSTSSON IS NO MATCH FOR KJARTANSSON. WE MUST CONTINUE THEREFORE TO STRENGTHEN HIM WITH PERTINENT INFORMATION AND ARGUMENTS TO COUNTER KJARTANSSON. ALTHOUGH THIS EMBASSY MUST DEAL PRIMARILY WITH FONMIN, WE HAVE ALSO EXTENDED OUR CONTACTS RE IDF ISSUE TO INCLUDE BROAD RANGE OF PUBLIC OFFICIALS AND PRIVATE OPINION LEADERS.

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PAGE 03 REYKJA 00890 311512Z

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